

REBECCA DAVIS DANCE COMPANY

Literature & History on Stage

RDDC GLOBAL COMMUNITY CULTURAL OUTREACH

REBECCA DAVIS DANCE COMPANY contribution to the larger community is primarily through its outreach program. RDDC arranges a creative arts program exploring the literary theme or historical context of each of its narrative dance productions. The instructors choreograph the students in scenes that retell the story. Importantly, the students are asked to examine themes that relate to today's society and their lives.

In working with Stanton School and dance director Carla Washington, Rebecca Davis created and implemented a program based on the life of Harriet Tubman through creative movement. RDDC worked with administrators at Parkway Northwest School for Peace and Social Justice to present its Rwandan outreach program in conjunction with a community event in fall 2008. This project included a partnership with Stanton School and the program presentation of 1994 in PHILADELPHIA based on survivor stories of the genocide in Rwanda.

Master classes with dance professionals is another component of RDDC outreach activities. Professional dancers of the organization work with students of any age and experience level through the medium of classical ballet to exchange technical knowledge and deepen the appreciation of the performance experience. Master classes are led by dancers who have joined RDDC from The Kirov (Mariinsky) Ballet, The Juilliard School and Philadanco.

Thank you so much for bringing your skills and your heart to our school. You and your artists were a gift for us. We learned so much and will do a reflection piece with the classroom teacher. Please know that all of you gave us much joy.

- Sue Kettell, 2007 Program Coordinator, Stanton School



Contact:

REBECCA DAVIS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
davis@rebeccadavisdance.com

Studio: 1802 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19145

Mail: PO Box 40892, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107

Tel: 215.755.9510/215.840.3890 Fax: 215.755.9511

www.rebeccadavisdance.com

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RDDC: THE COMPANY

REBECCA DAVIS DANCE COMPANY is a contemporary dance company founded on the unique mission of using dance to create original narrative productions based on important literary works and significant historical events. RDDC's professional dance performances bring to life universal human themes. RDDC's unique form of artistic expression presents a rare experience for audience members to explore new understanding and thereby connect personal meaning to culturally ubiquitous concepts and socially significant ideas. Fusing emotional characters with vibrant ensemble dancing, RDDC is especially powerful in reaching non-traditional dance audiences, such as university students and young working professionals.

RDDC'S GROWING REPERTOIRE INCLUDES:

ANTIGONE (World Premiere - March 16, 2006 The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia)

HELEN KELLER (World Premiere - November 2, 2007 The Prince Music Theatre, Philadelphia)

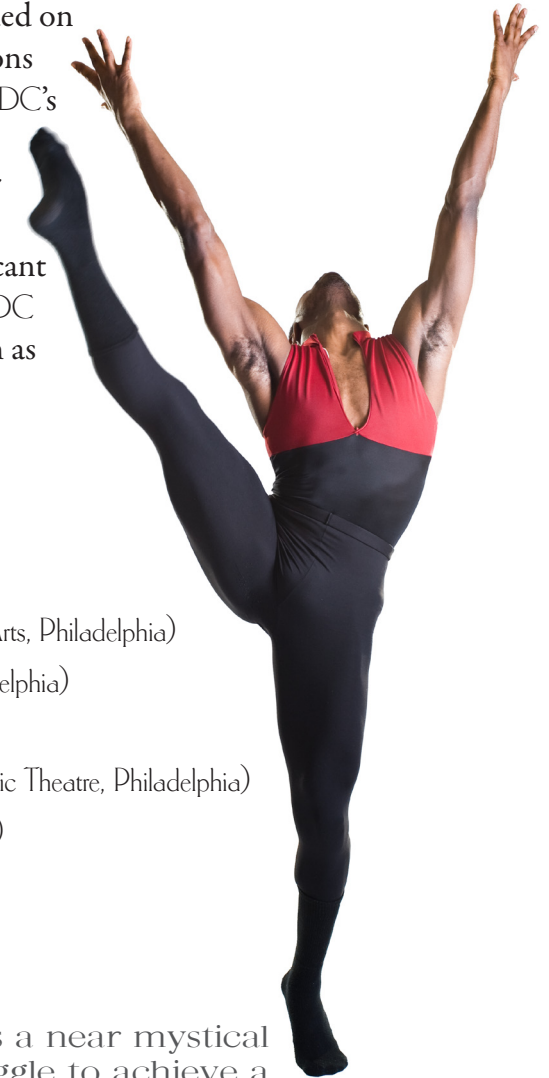
DARFUR (World Premiere - April 23, 2008 The Arden Theatre, Philadelphia)

GREED: THE TALE OF ENRON (World Premiere - January 30, 2009 The Prince Music Theatre, Philadelphia)

VAN GOGH (World Premiere - April 15, 2009 The Prince Music Theatre, Philadelphia)

The very sense of life each scene gives depicts a near mystical dancing that combines with a day-to-day struggle to achieve a poignancy unknown by the Western world.

- Jim Rutter of Broad Street Review captured the essence of RDDC after the recent world premiere of DARFUR



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RDDC REPERTOIRE: GREED-THE TALE OF ENRON

(World Premiere - January 30, 2009 The Prince Music Theatre, Philadelphia)

GREED-THE TALE OF ENRON is a two-act contemporary dance production set to alternative rock music with the effectively evocative placement ‘radio-personality’ voice-overs and with the stage dressed in starkly minimalist scaffolding which further punctuates the atmospheric corporate aura. Presciently well-timed, this production traces the rise and fall of energy giant Enron Corporation wherein the top executives, individually and collectively, both knowingly initiated wrong-doings and consciously resisted the corrosive corruption that ultimately caused a \$100 billion company to collapse in 2001. The Enron Board of Directors prepared to sign off on the fraudulent business practices. Clifford Baxter is the sole exception among Enron’s management who refuses to condone the dishonesty. Baxter alone remains ambivalently torn and he must wrestle within himself to resolve the internal conflict between his conscience and his loyalty to the organization.

FACTS - Performance: Two-act contemporary dance set to alternative rock music (90 minutes with intermission)

Cast: 11 Dancers (6 Male, 5 Female)

Music: Selections from various alternative rock music artists with voice-overs

Davis took something tragic about the intersection of human avarice and lax regulation in a capitalist economy and made something incredibly celebratory, beautiful, and powerful. ...as she did in DARFUR, Davis uses the dramatic pitch of her storytelling to a powerful effect.

- Jim Rutter, [South Philly Review](#)



RDDC REPERTOIRE: DARFUR

(World Premiere - April 23, 2008 The Arden Theatre, Philadelphia)

DARFUR is a one-act contemporary dance production set to alternative rock music, the modern dance performance integrates Second Life video projection with Brian Steidle’s original photography. DARFUR is based on the experiences witnessed by US Marine Brian Steidle during his six months in Sudan as an African Union Ceasefire Monitor. The scenes are powered by the emotions of the context in order to raise awareness about one of the world’s most pressing social issues today. The spirited performances of the ensemble of eleven dancers illuminates the poignant personal journey of one eyewitness to the human struggle occurring in Sudan.

FACTS - Performance: One-act contemporary dance set to alternative rock music (75 minutes no intermission)

Cast: 11 Dancers (7 Male, 4 Female)

Music: Selections from Damien Rice, A Perfect Circle, Apocalyptica & 311

As someone who has traveled in Africa and seen some of the atrocities that are depicted in DARFUR, I have never seen such a moving and gripping interpretation that affected me in such an emotional way.

- David W. Brown, President, Brown Partners

RDDC REPERTOIRE: VAN GOGH

(World Premiere - April 15, 2009 The Prince Music Theatre, Philadelphia)

VAN GOGH is a one-act contemporary ballet set to music ranging from classical to modern rock genres with each scene embodied by significant individuals encountered by van Gogh and with the stage illuminated by large-scale interpretations of the artist’s own masterpieces. This production portrays the short life of the Impressionist artist in his search for personal meaning, as expressed through his life-long yearning for enduring intimate relationships. Despite his valiant efforts, the young van Gogh’s creative genius and imaginative brilliance were no defense against his mind’s maddening delusions, insipid delirium and final defeat to insanity. Artistically, this progression is described beginning within the highly structured classical and literal realms then devolving into progressively disjointed contemporary and abstract spheres.

As Vincent himself said, “I put my heart and my soul into my work, and have lost my mind in the process.”

FACTS - Performance: One-act contemporary dance ballet (70 minutes no intermission)

Cast: 13 Dancers (5 Male, 5 Female, 3 Children)

Music: Selections ranging from Shostakovich to A Perfect Circle and Nine Inch Nails

I felt compelled to tell you personally how thoroughly I enjoyed the show because I’ve rarely been so moved while watching live dance. I think the integration of movement and music was brilliant, and it’s the saddest thing right now that I can’t go back to Thursday night and experience it again.

- Emily Pugh, VAN GOGH world premiere audience member

